

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1-4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of newly presented Claims 6-13. Accordingly, Claims 5-13 are pending for further consideration, with Claims 5, 6, 9, and 13 being independent. As will be evident from the following remarks, each of the independent Claims distinguishes patentably from the Pinschmidt reference, which was cited as the basis for the rejection of the original claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Referring initially to new independent Claim 6, the recited multi-plate clutch structure of Applicants' invention includes a substantially cylindrical tone wheel disposed on a substantially cylindrical outer peripheral portion of a clutch case, the tone wheel being press-worked to define one or more radially deformed protrusions or recesses disposed to be detected by a detector during rotation of the clutch case. The Pinschmidt reference evidently fails to teach or suggest the aforementioned features of the Applicants' invention.

Independent Claim 9 recites a similarly arranged tone wheel having at least one opening disposed to be detected by

a detector during rotation of the clutch case. Again, there is no teaching or suggestion of such a construction in Pinschmidt.

Insofar as applied to Claim 5, which stands unamended, the outstanding rejection on Pinschmidt is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 recites that the rotational speed is detected by detecting a position of an oil port. Applicants see no suggestion whatsoever of this feature in Pinschmidt.

New independent Claim 13 also recites that rotation speed is detected by detecting the position of an oil port, thus distinguishing patentably from Pinschmidt similarly to Claim 5.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully urged that the outstanding rejection under § 102(b) be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

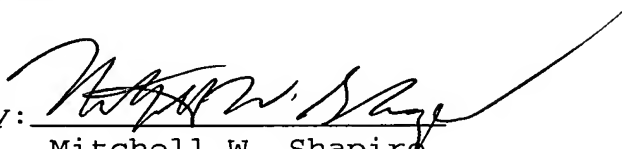
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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